

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
March 13, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Pastor Ruth Maynard, Impact Christian Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** All members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**  
None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated March 13, 2018. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2018. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Minchuk had no report.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Ms. LaMarca mentioned there will be a meeting next Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the pet ordinance. Ms. LaMarca said Ms. Breger, Mr. Svetanoff and those on the committee in addition to Opera Inc. Rescue will join the discussion for updated pet ordinance for the town.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mrs. Barron had no report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Uzelac discussed with spring and summer approaching residents are leaving portable basketball hoops in the streets. President Hardaway mentioned that Code Enforcement will address this matter. Discussion followed.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich said Vibra Hospital of Northwest Indiana contacted the Town of Merrillville in regards to a 5k Hospital Hustle that will be held May 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Orlich is working with landscapers designing Hendricks Park. Ms. Orlich spoke to Public Works regarding the removal and installation of equipment for Hendricks Park. Ms. Orlich mentioned that Mr. Spires asked about proposals on some lots at the Y&W which she gave two appraisals and waiting for those to come in. Ms. Orlich is working with Indot on new E & L signage for the Merrillville welcome signage, trail heads and trail markers to be installed in spring. Discussion followed.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mr. Barron had no report.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mr. Spann had no report.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

President Hardaway had no report.

**GENERAL ORDERS**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

None

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 18- 01:**

An ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana recognizing the authority of the Merrillville Fire Protection Territory to seek reimbursement for fire, safety and rescue responses and hazardous material and environmental incidents. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 18- 02:**

An ordinance establishing permit fees and procedures for right of entry within the town and repealing all town code sections and ordinances, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith, and all matters related thereto. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res. 18-04:**

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, authorizing the repayment of a temporary loan (as of 2-23-18). Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Res. 18-05:**

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville approving the issuance of refunding bonds of the Town of Merrillville Redevelopment Commission, and related matters. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:**

**Petitioner:** Blackhall Corporation  
**Owner:** Blackhall Corporation  
**Request:** Special exception approval  
**Purpose:** Indoor outdoor self-storage  
**Location:** 7159-7241 Taft Street  
**Zoning:** C-2, Community Commercial  
**Case #:** Z3E2-0118

Sheila Shine provided information from the petitioner to withdraw variance. Mr. Pettit along with town attorney Mr. Svetanoff made a note to have all petitioners provide Ms. Shine with a purchase agreement before applying with the town. Mr. Pettit made a motion to accept the petitioner’s withdraw. Mr. Minchuck seconded the motion. Some discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Petitioner:** Blackhall Corporation  
**Owner:** Blackhall Corporation  
**Request:** Variance of use approval  
**Purpose:** Indoor outdoor self-storage  
**Location:** 7159-7241 Taft Street  
**Zoning:** C-2, Community Commercial  
**Case #:** Z4uV2-0118

Sheila Shine provided information from the petitioner to withdraw variances. Mr. Pettit along with town attorney Mr. Svetanoff made a note to have all petitioners provide Ms. Shine with a purchase agreement before applying with the town. Mr. Pettit made a motion to accept the petitioner’s withdraw. Mr. Minchuck seconded the motion. Some discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Petitioner:** Kolbrook Design  
**Owner:** Ross Plaza LLC  
**Request:** Special exception approval  
**Purpose:** Dine in restaurant  
**Location:** 407 West 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
**Zoning:** C-3, Highway Commercial  
**Case #:** Z6E4-0218

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Environmental Resource Commission meeting, March 15, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Plan Commission meeting, March 20, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Abandoned Blighted Properties Commission meeting, March 22, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

Economic Development Commission meeting, March 27, 2018 at 5:45 p.m.

Redevelopment Commission meeting, March 27, 2018  
immediately following the Economic Development Commission meeting

Town Council meeting, March 27, 2018 at 6:30p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Minchuk made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

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**Richard Hardaway, President**

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**Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer**